

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group

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Newsletter



Number thirty-nine

Spring 2020

www.nhbg.org.uk



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CHAIR

One of the most exciting aspects of the NHBG website when it was first setup was the prospect of an archive that held details of all the buildings that have been surveyed by the NHBG in our 20-year history.

Unfortunately money ran out before the project could be finished to our satisfaction, partly due to the huge amount of information that it contains, but also its necessary complexity. The committee realised that it was very cumbersome in use, but since it was first brought online, our reserves have improved and the NHBG now has a different IT provider. They were asked to improve access and useability in order to release the huge amount of information that is contained in it for researchers of the county's buildings.

Up to 500 separate pieces of information on each of the 350+ buildings that the NHBG has surveyed are now accessible for analysis by NHBG members who have requested a login from Jackie Simpson. Her details are set out below if you are interested in having a look.

Basic instructions for access and setting-up queries are shown on pages 17-19 of this newsletter. All you need is a login and the "World is Your Lobster", as the famous Arthur Daley once said to his minder Terry!

Needless to say, there will be errors and omissions. If you find any, please let Jackie Simpson or I know.

Ian Hinton
Chair, Norfolk Historic Buildings Group
March 2020

ian.hinton222@btinternet.com

Committee Contact Details

Ian Hinton

134 Yarmouth Road, Norwich NR7 0SB
01603 431311 [h] e.mail:ian.hinton222@btinternet.com

Chair & Editor

Alayne Fenner

24 Mount Pleasant, Norwich, NR2 2DG
01603 452204 [h] e.mail: alayne.fenner@btinternet.com

Deputy Chair

Lynne Hodge

17 Kingsway, Blakeney, Holt NR25 7PL
01263 741950 e.mail: lynne@walknorfolk.co.uk

Committee Secretary and Buildings

Maggy Chatterley

134 Yarmouth Road, Norwich NR7 0SB
01603 431311 [h] e.mail: maggy6@btinternet.com

Treasurer & Membership

Mary Ash

107 St Leonards Road, Norwich, NR1 4JF
01603 616285 [h] e.mail: mary.ash@ntlworld.com

Winter Programme

Dominic Summers

3 Speke Street, Norwich, NR2 4HF
07709 028192[m] e.mail: d.summers1@btinternet.com

Summer Events

Jackie Simpson

The Chestnuts, Church Road, Neatishead NR12 8BT
01692 630639(h) e.mail: jackie.g.simpson@btinternet.com

Web Database

Diane Barr

24 The Shrublands, Horsford, NR10 3EL
01603 898928 [h] e.mail: dibarr@btinternet.com

Documentary Research

Anne Woollett

The Cardinal's Hat, Back Street, Reepham NR10 4SJ
01603 870452 [h] email: anne.woollett@tiscali.co.uk

Web Pages

Hilary Newby-Grant

Ketteringham Cottage, Sloley, Norfolk NR8 8HF
01692 538383 [h] email: billnewby8@hotmail.com

Jess Johnson

Tin Barn, High Common Road, North Lopham IP22 2HS
01953 681408 (h) email: jessjohnston315@gmail.com

Twitter Feed

Owen Warnock

St Mary's Farm, Cheney's Lane, Tacolneston, Norwich NR16 1DB
01508 481822 (h) email: oandrwarnock@btinternet.com

Paul Hodge (not on committee)

The Cardinal's Hat, Back Street, Reepham NR10 4SJ
01603 870452 [h] email: pt.hodge@tiscali.co.uk

Facebook Group

Administration

NHBG Winter Venue

The committee said that it would keep the new winter event venue under review after our lengthy residence at UEA.

So far the attendance has been at about the same level as before and feedback has been excellent, apart from a slight problem with the AC at the first event (we didn't know how to control it), it has provided everything that we want. The administrators of the centre bend over backwards to accommodate us, the technology is fine, there is ample parking and the site is relatively accessible, although we are not allowed wine.

Now that we have to pay for the hire of the venue as well as meeting the expenses of the speakers, the committee has decided to retain the small charge for entry. This seems to be the norm for most similar organisations in order to defray expenses. The small income covers the hall-hire costs and helps us use the rest of our resources for undertaking and publishing our research.

If you know of somewhere even better or more suitable, please let one of the committee know and we will investigate.

Our 20-year anniversary is creeping up on us, so we plan to have a special celebratory cake at the AGM in Swaffham - please try to join the committee at the AGM so we don't have to eat it all ourselves.

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Cover Photo: Part of the first phase of Krons Manor, Hempnall. The lateral stack was added to the open hall replacing the original smoke bay when the large extension, built at rightangles (to the right), was added. The roofline of the original hall can be seen to the left of the stack.

- (photo Ian Hinton)

Summer Programme

If booking by post, please use the forms provided to book, **with a separate cheque for each event**. IF YOU WANT TICKETS POSTED TO YOU, DON'T FORGET the SAE.

If you are happy to receive the tickets by email, DO NOT SEND AN SAE, the tickets will be despatched by email, but I am afraid that, until the Bank allows voluntary groups to have full access to phone or internet banking, the cheque is best for us as it is the only way that we know payment has been made until several weeks later.

We have attempted to avoid having limits on numbers attending, but at some venues we have no choice. Booking is on a first come, first served basis, but if there is considerable over-demand we will try and run a similar event in the future. *Dominic Summers*

Swaffham Town Walk

Sunday 28th June

Time: Walk starts at 11:00 am
Meet: Butter Cross PE37 7AB
Parking: Public car parks in Swaffham
Cost: none
Limit: none
Walking: Mostly roads and pavements
Contact: Dominic Summers
07709 028192
d.summers1@btinternet.com

We will be shown round Swaffham by Sue Gattuso, the leader of Swaffham Heritage Centre, taking in the Church, the rich Georgian buildings around the marketplace and a couple of industrial buildings.

followed by the AGM @ The Regency Room in the Assembly Rooms Market Place PE37 7AB

Time: 1:00 pm - soup and bread rolls
(And 20-year anniversary cake),
1:30 pm AGM

Please return ticket, or email Dominic, for catering numbers
Contact: Dominic Summers,
d.summers1@btinternet.com
AGM Papers to follow nearer the date.

Catton Place & Summer Party (NR6 7NQ) Thursday 9th July

Time: 2:30pm
Meet: Catton Place, Spixworth Road
Cost: £15
Limit: no limit (members only)
Walking: Stairs and paths
Contact Jess Johnston
01953 681408
jessjohnston315@gmail.com

Peter and Naomi Milne have kindly invited members to have a detailed look at Catton Place - a Grade II* Georgian house of around 1750. We will also visit Catton church and part of Catton Park.

We have been invited to have drinks and nibbles on the lawn afterwards (in the house if wet).

Wangford Hall, Wangford Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk (no postcode)

Saturday 25th July

Time: 2:30 pm
Meet: Wangford Hall - details with ticket
Cost: £10
Limit: 30 (members only)
Walking: Stairs
Contact: Anne Woollett
01603 870452
anne.woollett@tiscali.co.uk

A very rare chance to visit this 'high quality' timber framed house of which the earliest 'hall house' part is believed to date from the 15th century but with many subsequent additions. Many of its original features are still there such as the crown-post roof. Long on the 'at risk' register it is now in new ownership and we shall be privileged to see it with much of the internal timber framing exposed and in the process of restoration.

Church Day Saturday 15th August

Time: 10:30 - 3:30 pm
Meet: Guestwick church (NR20 5QD)
Parking: on street
Cost: £10
Limit: no limit (members only)
Walking: Churchyards
Food: BYO picnic
Contact: Ian Hinton
01603 431311
ian.hinton222@btinternet.com

We will be visiting four churches that fully demonstrate the differences in development between those that are located in rich parishes and those in poor parishes, particularly during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. In addition, we will visit one church whose final form did not occur until the nineteenth century, as a result of having a well-to-do and Anglo-Catholic-reforming rector.

Starting at Guestwick, we will visit Salle, Booton and Brandiston.

Cavick House, Wymondham N18 9PJ

Monday 18th May

Time: 2:00-4:00
Meet: Cavick House
Cost: £10
Limit: 30 (members only)
Walking: Stairs and garden
Contact: Mary Ash
01603 616285
mary.ash@ntlworld.com

Grand, Grade I, early C18 red-brick house of 2 storeys and attic, extended to 9 bays. Arched panelled central door with a pair of engaged Doric columns and pedimented hood.

INTERIOR. Ornate open-string staircase with Room to south has panelled doors with eared surrounds and high-quality plasterwork. Marble fireplace with a mantel supported on pair of scrolled consoles. Frieze with a central scene of a shepherd and dog chasing a wolf with a lamb.

Stunning gardens too - they will have been opened for the gardens-open scheme the previous day!

Cressingham Manor IP25 6NJ

Thursday 4th June

Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Meet: Cressingham Manor IP26 6NJ
Cost: £10
Limit: 30 (members only)
Walking: Stairs
Contact: Lynne Hodge
01263 741950
lynne@walknorfolk.co.uk

A moated site with part of a former block surviving. Mid-16C Manor House with terracotta dressings and a late-16C timber-framed extension, later replaced in brick.

Brick polygonal turrets decorate the front facade along with a complex terracotta frieze and terracotta blind arcading on the plinth.

Georgian Cottages in the Maldon District, Essex

Tim Howson (October 11th 2019)

Forty-six percent of statutorily-listed houses in the Maldon District date from the eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. And yet, the smaller Georgian houses of Essex have been neglected as a subject for serious study. Instead, students of vernacular architecture in Essex have been mesmerised by the wonderful timber-framed dwellings of the medieval and early post-medieval periods. This talk sought to begin redressing the balance by analysing the smallest and most numerous house-type of the Georgian period; the humble cottage.

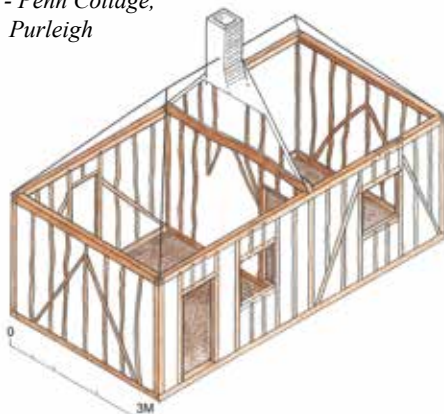
Cottages provide a valuable insight into the living conditions of the labouring classes during the Georgian period. Many examples are among the smallest houses to survive from any period, typically being single- or 1½-storeyed and containing between just two and four rooms. The talk presented a selection of case studies which illustrate the most common variations of form, layout and construction. The influence of the classical style of architecture – which is felt so strongly in larger houses of the period – fails to reach most cottages, in which old-fashioned types of timber-framed construction and layout persist well into the nineteenth century. These factors have often led to the inaccurate dating of Georgian cottages, by listing inspectors and others who assumed they were older than they are. To help address this, in selecting case studies, I prioritised those which are dated by documentary evidence.

One of the smallest examples shown in the talk is Penn Cottage in Purleigh (Fig. 1). Dated by map-evidence to the 1830s, it is single-storey with just two principal rooms, a central chimney stack and a hipped, thatched roof (Fig. 2).



Fig 1 - Penn Cottage, Purleigh

Fig 2 - Isometric drawing of Penn Cottage



The front doorway leads directly into the kitchen which also has a rear doorway that probably led into a lean-to. The other room was presumably the bedroom. The timbers of this cottage are all elm and of generally slight and waney-edged section. There are very few pegged joints. In terms of wall studs, it is only the door jambs that are pegged. The walls were originally clad in elm weatherboarding. The timber-frame was exposed internally with lath and plaster applied to the internal face of the weatherboards. During recent repair work, it was found that the whole timber-framed structure was resting upon nothing more than a single layer of brickwork. Documentary evidence for a cottage in the same parish, of the same size and type as Penn Cottage, records that it was built in 1833 utilising eight elm trees that had been growing on the site (ERO: D/DHh M116).

A larger type of cottage is that which has the chimney stacks on the gable ends rather than in the middle of the building. To illustrate this type I showed two examples in Bradwell-on-Sea which are roughly fifty years apart in age; The Nook, which was developed on a slip of roadside waste shortly after 1754 (Fig. 3), and Tudor Cottage which dates from c.1800 (Fig. 4).

The Nook is dated by documentary evidence whereas Tudor Cottage can be dated by the style of its construction.

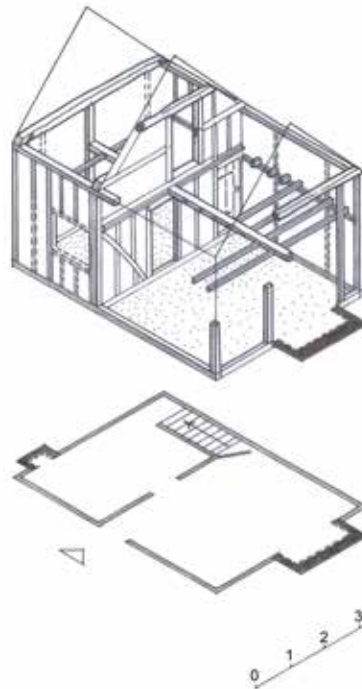


Fig 3 - Isometric reconstruction of The Nook, Bradwell on Sea

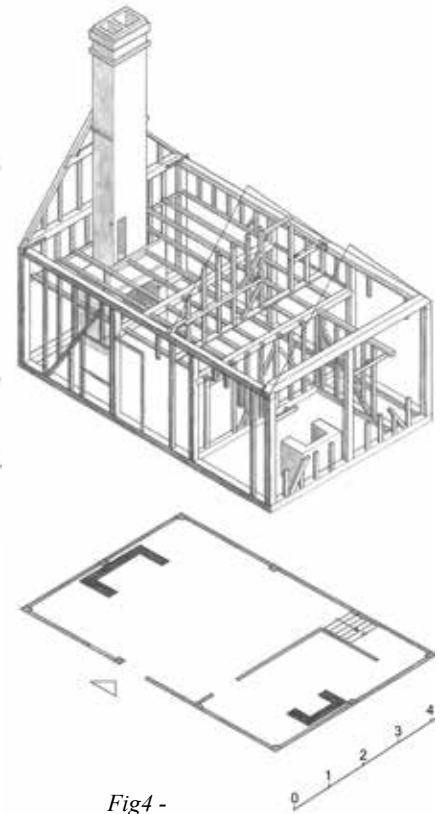


Fig4 - Isometric reconstruction of Tudor Cottage, Bradwell on Sea

photo and drawings
© Tim Howson

Comparison of these two cottages illustrates some interesting developments in layout and structure. Both cottages have two rooms on each floor; one large (a kitchen) and one small (a parlour), with the stairs leading from the kitchen, through the parlour. The front doorway led into the kitchen. Neither of the cottages had rear windows or doors; for this reason, houses of this type are sometimes called 'blind-backs'. In the older cottage, the first-floor chambers were unheated, whereas in the new cottage the larger chamber has a tiny fireplace. A further difference is that, unlike the older cottage, in the younger cottage the partition between the ground-floor rooms does not align with the partition between the first-floor rooms. In timber-framed houses prior to the eighteenth-century we generally find that room sizes correspond with structural bays. But in the Georgian period a more fluid approach becomes increasingly common; an example of what David Stenning calls "volumetric ambiguity".

In both cottages the first-floor partition incorporates a structural doorway, reinforced so that the partition helps restrain the eaves from spreading out under the weight of the roof. In The Nook the tie beam is secured to the door jamb by a traditional pegged mortice-and-tenon joint. But the same junction in Tudor Cottage is reinforced by a wrought iron strap. These different approaches reflect a decline in traditional carpentry techniques. The Nook has a relatively substantial timber-framed structure that was originally exposed internally. It is all elm. A roughly-

hewn principal floor-joist threads through the length of the building. The primitive character of this mid-eighteenth century cottage led the listing inspector to assume it was a hundred years older than it actually is. In Tudor cottage, the structure is slightly more lightweight, and different types and species of timber are deployed in different parts of the building. The storey posts are recycled oak wall plates. The wall plates and tie beams are imported pine. The first-floor structure is all elm. The common studs in the external walls are mostly elm, with some pine. The rafters are mostly pine poles, with some square-section elm. The internal partitions are poplar.

In conclusion, I reflected on the remarkable contrast between low-status cottages and more substantial farmhouses in the Georgian period. A poor labourer might live in a two-room cottage with earth floors, earth plaster, exposed framing and a single fireplace, while a prosperous farmer could enjoy a large house with classical brick façade, panelled interior and fireplaces in most rooms. These cottages represent the last gasp of a vernacular tradition in which much of the timber-framed structure remained visible internally.

I plan to submit a detailed essay on the subject for publication in the journal *Vernacular Architecture*.

Tim is the Conservation Officer for Maldon District Council

Winter Lecture Synopsis

Old Buildings: Myths, Mistakes and Oddities

Philip Venning (November 13th 2019)

The lecture was a light-hearted and disparate look at how historic buildings are often not what they seem. Though it touched on some of the issues of fakery, deliberate and unintentional, it was far from an academic discussion about mistaken ideas of authenticity.

At what point do cumulative changes to a historic building or any other artefact turn it into something else? An early slide was of HMS Victory, only a small proportion of which is the ship that Nelson sailed on. The vast majority of its historic fabric has been replaced over the years. This brought to mind the Ship of Theseus debate, when classical philosophers argued over how much of Theseus's ship needed to remain without it becoming a different entity. Or the man, noting that human cells are replaced regularly, who wondered if his wife was the same woman he married many years before.

*Is this really
H.M.S.
Victory - or a
reconstruction?*

*Images taken
from Philip's
Powerpoint,
except for the
Royal Armouries'
image*



The founding of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings by William Morris in 1877 was a direct response to the falsification of historic buildings in the name of restoration. A slide showed St Alban's Abbey (now cathedral) before and after "restoration" when the entire ancient west front was destroyed to create a new version that bore no relation to anything that had been there before.



*St Albans Cathedral
before restoration with a
Perpendicular-period
west window*

*After restoration with
an earlier-period Rose
window, pinnacles and
image niches*



Similarly, the Tower of London looked very different from the river before a series of 19th century restorations that were designed to make it appear more castle-like.



The White Tower revealed to those on the river after the removal of the building between it and the river, with the cupolas just visible behind



© Royal Armouries

Particularly tragic was the fashion for stripping plaster from the walls of Mediaeval churches with the inevitable destruction of concealed wallpaintings, possibly the greatest ever destruction of ancient art in the country.



One of the many churches that had their wall plaster stripped under the guise of mediaeval authenticity

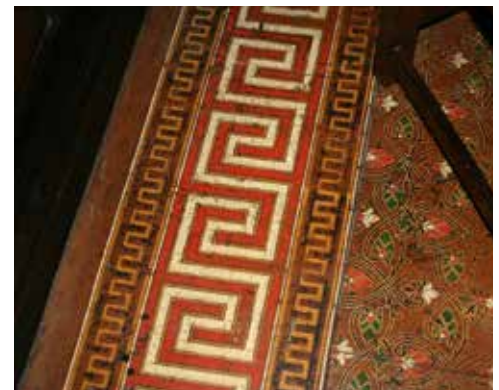
Just occasionally fake history can be a good thing. In Central London tourists come to photograph The Old Curiosity Shop because of its apparent association with the book by Dickens. Scholars agree that its name was only added by an enterprising owner after the success of the book. But thanks to him a small 16th century timber-framed building has survived in London when all others nearby were subsequently demolished.



The Old Curiosity Shop; a conservation success - but for the wrong reason?

The lecture referred to widespread myths about old buildings such as the common claim that a particular timber-framed building was made of reused ships' timbers; or that there was once a secret passage that ran from beneath a house to the churchyard or wherever. In view of the fire at Notre Dame in Paris people understandably assumed that Mediaeval cathedrals were fragile. But after the Great Fire of London much of the Gothic cathedral of St Paul's survived. Knocking it down proved a huge challenge because it was so solidly built, according to Dr James Campbell. Wren tried gunpowder but instead designed a giant battering ram, operated by 30 men. It took years of effort to reduce it to foundation level.

The lecture briefly mentioned listing, and two surprising examples – some highly decorated lino, where listed building consent for its removal was required, and the Abbey Road zebra crossing in London, made famous on the cover of an album by The Beatles. Listing what were in effect just white lines was odd enough. But their location might have actually moved slightly. The list description claims that it is substantially in its original position.



Listed Linoleum - an unusual example of protection

Historic buildings often enjoy a new life by a change of use. In Spitalfields there is a building erected in the 1740 by Huguenot silk workers. After the decline of the silk trade it became in turn an evangelical chapel and later a synagogue. Today it is a mosque. But who knows what it may yet become? More unusual examples of new uses were the classical pigsty, now a Landmark Trust property; the Westminster Abbey retable which spent many years built into a cupboard, and a holiday home on the Norfolk Broads that was once a fairground helter-skelter.



The concluding image was a puzzle – something in a field looking a bit like a caravan. It was in fact a wartime pillbox, convincingly camouflaged by the famous designer Oliver Messel.

Now retired, Philip was Chief Executive of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) and Vice-President of the Historic Churches Trust but is still a member of the Westminster Abbey Fabric Commission

Vernacular Architecture Group Conferences

The NHBG is an affiliate member of the national Vernacular Architecture Group (VAG).

Affiliate membership gives members of the NHBG certain rights. It entitles up to 2 members of the group to apply for places at the various conferences that the VAG organize. This is not a guarantee of a place, as first call on the limited number of places goes to full VAG members; applications from affiliate members are considered on a first-come-first-served basis afterwards.

Successful applicants will have to pay their own conference fees and expenses.

(Should you wish to join the VAG - membership cost is £20pa for individual or £30 for joint) see <http://www.vag.org.uk/>

Winter Conference

Usually 2 days in early January on a single topic - cost in the region of £150-200.

Recently these have covered topics such as:- Marks on Buildings, Tree Ring Dating and The Transition from Medieval to Modern House.

Spring Conference

Usually 4 days around Easter in a different area of the country each year - cost in the region of £350-500

Recently these have examined the Vernacular in:- Manchester, Cornwall, North Wales and Hertfordshire - (2021

is in Norfolk, but the affiliate places have already been allocated to some of the organizers)

Applications for Conference places

The NHBG receives notice of these events at about the time the details are added to the VAG website. In future, an email will be sent to members with details of the conferences, giving everyone the opportunity of expressing an interest in attending. These will be coordinated by a member of the committee and the application to the VAG made by the committee in case there are more than 2 people who express an interest, in which case there may have to be a ballot.

Vernacular Architecture Journal

The NHBG also receives the annual Journal *Vernacular Architecture*, which contains up-to-date articles on various subjects. These copies are available for consultation.

The Journal is published by Taylor and Francis - A list of contents of each volume can be found at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/yvea20>

Some volumes of *Vernacular Architecture* have been donated to the NHBG by members, these are available for a nominal contribution to NHBG funds if anyone wants them. Please contact Ian Hinton to get a list.

VAG Winter Conference 2019/20 – Marks on Buildings

Several NHBG members attended a fully-subscribed conference of 150 delegates in Leicester. There were 12 sessions on various aspects of marks on buildings – masons' marks, carpenters' marks, burn marks, graffiti, protection marks, dates and other inscriptions – many given by people who have already spoken to the NHBG about their research over the years.

In each case, it became obvious from current research that much of what we "knew" about such marks is now either out of date or under critical review. Much was made of the press leaping on aspects of large-scale surveys singling-out, or inventing, certain words, such as 'witch-marks', thereby reinforcing the commonly-held impressions that were clearly being argued against by the bulk of the research.

It appears that the major part of the views on burn marks, ritual protection marks and religious symbols springs from the minds of the rather over-imaginative Victorians, and in many of these cases symbols continued to be used by habit, such as the Arts and Crafts Movement's use of the saltire cross as a decorative motif, and others using marks with a 'just in case' belt-and-braces approach.

The talks by John Dean and Nick Hill on burn marks included a practical demonstration of the creation of a mark, which took hold rather faster than intended and had to be stopped.

What was clear was the sheer number of these marks already found around the country and that they continue to be discovered in vast numbers, some in the most unlikely places.

Ian Hinton



Nick Hill creating a burn mark

VAG Spring Conference 2021

Planning continues for the visit of the national Vernacular Architecture Group's experts to Norfolk in April 2021.

Currently we are planning to spend a day in Norwich, looking at and around some of its early buildings; a day in Lynn studying the rich architecture resulting from trading with the continent, and a day in south Norfolk studying several examples of Norfolk's fine timber-framed houses.

If you would like to add your house to this list, please let Ian or Lynne know.

If you are interested in joining in on the tours, you will need to join the VAG (membership cost is £20pa for individual or £30 for joint) see <http://www.vag.org.uk/>. Their membership year runs from March - the notifications for the 2021 conference will be sent out in February 2021.

Before the Earliest Standing Timber Buildings: Archaeological Evidence for Vernacular Houses from the Tenth to the Twelfth Centuries

Mark Gardiner (4th December 2019)

Few vernacular timber buildings are known in England from before 1200 and only a single surviving timber building remains from the period before 1150 – the timber church at Greenstead (Essex). Understanding the character of timber buildings before the thirteenth century remains an outstanding challenge. It is not merely that buildings before 1200 are few in number, but also there are many indications that they were of a fundamentally different type from those of the later period.



*St Andrew's church, Greenstead, Essex
- dendro dated to the late eleventh century*

Some hints of the form of early buildings can be recovered from the evidence of the timber roofs on stone structures. We are fortunate that these have been recently reviewed by Lyn Courtenay and Nat Alcock (2015), and they have suggested, using evidence particularly from Scandinavia and the Low Countries, that eleventh-century roofs typically had trusses formed of pairs of rafters joined by common tie beams. They were set close together, with a typical spacing of between 600–800mm between centres.

We cannot, of course, assume that roofs which occur on these major masonry buildings with wide spans were the same as those on vernacular timber buildings, but there is some evidence that they were broadly similar. The 'Romanesque' practice of using common roof trusses, seems also to be reflected in the excavated evidence which suggests a pattern of close-set posts of common scantling. This is in marked contrast with the thirteenth-century evidence which shows that buildings were constructed with principal posts, which divided the structure into clearly defined bays, and with smaller timbers in between which did not carry the weight of the roof. Instead, these intermediate timbers – studs – served to hold the walling material, usually wattle and daub. The change to principal posts and intermediate studs in the walls of buildings was echoed in the subsequent change in the later thirteenth century from common rafter roofs to those with principal and secondary rafters. All these changes were aimed at reducing the quantity of timber required in building.

The problem of studying the forms of building before the earliest standing structures is that there is very little evidence of the nature of the structure above the footings, but, in a few water-logged places, preserved timbers have given some indication of

the nature of carpentry. They survive particularly conditions were wet – in revetments adjoining riversides, and occasionally in watermills – and in places with rising watertables, such as York and London. Many of the timbers from London, which have been so key in interpreting changes in carpentry, have not been found in their original structures, but recovered from re-used situations (Milne 1992). Leading to difficulties of interpretation: for example, timbers which were originally identified as sole plates have now been recognized as wall plates.

The London timbers are, however, notable for what they do tell us. The mortices in these wall plates suggest that they held the tenons of a large number of closely spaced posts. In between were set either horizontal timbers or wattlework holding panels of daub. Remarkably, such panels have been found in excavation at Eynsham Abbey (Oxfordshire) where they had fallen after the building in which they had been set had been demolished. They were set between posts which were exceptionally close – 0.4m centre to centre. This was unusual even for the tenth-century date of that building. If we take a series of buildings from across England, it is clear that changes were taking place in the spacing of the timbers. By the eleventh century the average spacing of posts was around 1.5 to 2.1m, and this increased to 2.5m in the twelfth century.

There is a clear convergence of the evidence from archaeological excavation and that from the earliest surviving roofs on masonry buildings. The posts and roof trusses were both close set and were 'common', that is to say, they each timber had the same scantling as other posts or trusses in the building.

Quality and form of building

Was an eleventh- or twelfth-century house, precisely laid out and well-constructed, or a rather more crude building with roughly aligned postholes? Of course, this will depend upon the function of the building and the skill of the builder, but it has become clear that even houses which seem to be poorly laid out, were, in fact, carefully planned (Gardiner 2013). The long walls of some buildings were not parallel, but laid out at a slight angle. This made the house slightly wider in the middle than at the ends (Fig 1), a feature which is best known from the so-called boat-shaped buildings in Scandinavia. The effect of such buildings, both in England and Scandinavia, seems to have been to create a 'false perspective' and make the building look to the visitor approaching the door both higher and longer than it was in reality.

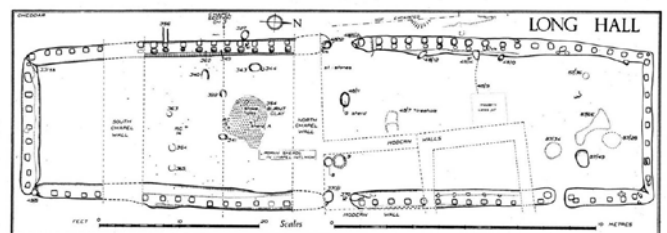


Fig 1 The tenth-century Long Hall at Cheddar, showing the increased width in the centre of the building

Images taken from Mark's Powerpoint

Excavation has demonstrated that postholes were often carefully prepared for the timbers which were to be set within them. The site was prepared not in the manner which we might adopt for laying out a fence, for example. We might crudely cut postholes of a much greater size than the posts which were to be set within them. Instead, it can be shown in some places that the posthole was carefully carved out of the ground to fit the size and shape of the timber intended to be set there (Fig. 2). Moreover, the inside edge of the timber was carefully aligned to produce a smooth face, something which is apparent in the church at Greenstead. The outside face was less important.



Fig. 2 Posthole from a tenth-century building at Market Field, Steyning (W. Sussex). The dark fill of the hole marks the area of the timber which was held in position by the packing stones. Note how the shape of the posthole follows that of the timber which was set within it. The inside of the building is towards the top of the photograph. Scale 200mm.

The final element which we need to consider is the way in which the building was constructed. Archaeologists have long noted that many buildings lack corner posts, a feature which has been given the unfortunate title of ‘weak corners’. As any builder knows, the corners are potentially the weakest part of any structure and the idea that a house might be built with a lack of strength at this point is incredible. Instead, we must imagine that this feature is not real, but a product of the form of construction. Many houses appear to have been built with ‘panels’ – a series of posts which were secured with a wall plate. In some buildings this was applied not only to the side walls, but also the end walls (Fig 3).

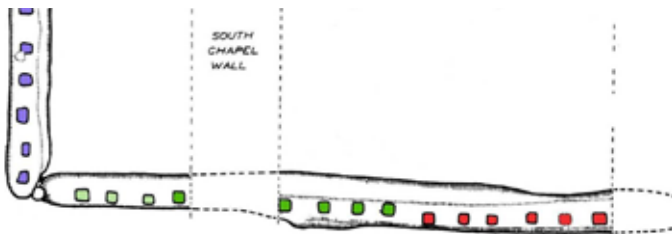


Fig 3 The panels of part of the south wall of the Long Hall at Cheddar

To ensure that there were separate and secure postholes for the end and side walls, the panels did not touch. Instead the wall plates were joined by a timber at 45° – a dragon or angle tie (Fig. 4).

The implications of this for the form of the building are considerable. It suggests that the end of the building was hipped rather than had a gable. It has become almost a convention to show the reconstruction of early medieval buildings with gable roofs, but the evidence in many structures does not support this. Instead, we must imagine the dragon tie held the bottom end of a hip rafter. Reflection about the structure of buildings suggests this an altogether more likely solution. A gable end has a greater wind resistance than one with a hip. The posts at the end of the building were not braced or even tied to their counterparts at the far end. They were therefore more prone to racking. A hipped end helped to reduce this problem (Fig. 5).

Research into buildings of the tenth to twelfth centuries has begun to make considerable progress in the last twenty years. Although few buildings survive, it is possible to suggest with greater certainty their form and the nature of the construction.

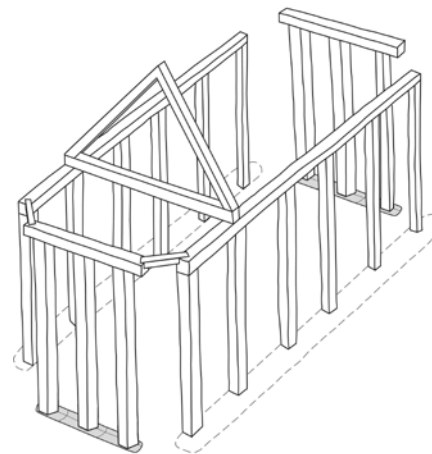


Fig. 4 Suggested interpretation of the structure of a late Anglo-Saxon building. The end walls were joined to the side walls with dragon ties.

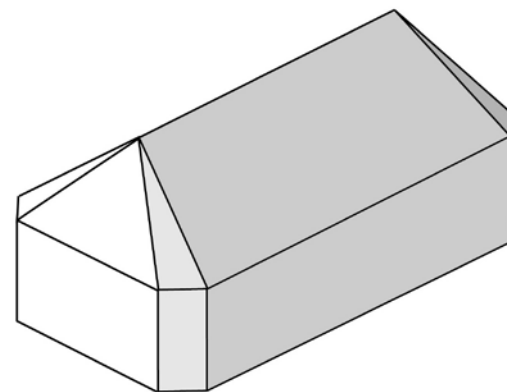


Fig 5 The form of a similar building to that shown in Fig. 4

Courtenay, L and Alcock, N. 2013. Romanesque roofs: the nave of Jumièges Abbey and the common-tiebeam tradition in northern Europe, *Medieval Archaeology* 59, 122–67.

Gardiner, M. F. 2013. The sophistication of Late Anglo-Saxon timber buildings, in M. D. J. Bintley and M. G. Shapland (eds), *Timber, Trees and Woodland in Anglo-Saxon England*, 45–77. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Milne, G. 1992. *Timber Building Techniques in London c.900–1400*. London: London and Middlesex Archaeological Society.

Mark is Reader in Heritage (Archaeology) at the University of Lincoln

Winter Lecture Synopsis

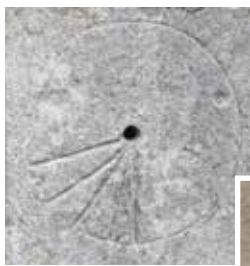
Telling the time on churches (from scratch dials to clocks)

Ian Hinton (Members' night - February 12th 2020)

Scratch Dials

Scratch dials, or Mass clocks, are often found on the south walls of churches, usually near the main door in the nave or the priest's door in the chancel; usually with lines, but sometimes with small holes.

They are traditionally supposed to indicate the time of medieval masses (which were concentrated in the morning in local churches), but they take many forms, some of which appear to be more like graffiti, especially since any line above horizontal can never be indicated by the sun.



Plausible dial at Barfrestone? (Kent)

right: Graffiti at Tacolneston, or altered to become a graffito?



left: Dial of dots and lines - Worthing

They are found all over the country, although concentrated in East Anglia and the west country - is this a case of there are more people looking here? I have found 83 churches in Norfolk which have dials, which also means that almost 500 do not.

There are Saxon examples on some 8thC churches (Bishopstone (Sussex) and Escomb (Durham)), and on a Saxon churchyard cross in Bewcastle (Cumb), but most are on Norman or Early English parts of churches, such as Norman doorways.

Measuring Time

The time, as shown by a scratch dial, varies depending on:-

The season of the year; The angle of the gnomon (central pointer); The alignment of the church and the length of the 'hour' at the time ...

Measurement at one church (Barnby, Suffolk) shows a 25° difference at 9:00am between midwinter and midsummer - due to the horizontal pointer and the varying height of the sun.



Midwinter



Equinox



Midsummer

Barnby, Suffolk at 9:00am (All photos - Ian Hinton)

At noon the shadow cast is vertical at any time of year if the church is due east-west - but there is a 30° difference in the shadows at noon between churches aligned at 60 and 120°, rather than due east - 90°.

Multiple Dials

Many churches have multiple dials - increasing the likelihood of at least some being graffiti - Hales has 10, Redenhall has 6 (all on one buttress) and many churches have 2 or 3.

Dials are also often found in odd places on churches - sometimes on the north wall (where there is never any sun during the main part of the day) and often in a different orientation (on their side) - both are the result of reusing stones, either from some rebuilding of the church or brought in from elsewhere.

Service Times

Before mechanical clocks, daylight was divided into 12 "hours". At mid-winter at our latitude, "Day" was from 8:30am to 4:30pm therefore an hour was 40mins. At mid-summer, "Day" was from 3:30am to 9:30pm - so an hour was over twice as long - 90 mins.

When clocks became more prevalent (after the end of the 14thC), non-clock time was called "solar time" and clock time was "time of the clock" - now shortened to "o'clock"

St Alban's Abbey installed a clock in 1390s and service times at the Abbey were linked to the clock after that. At the other end of the scale, local village churches and their clergy probably had no other way of telling the time, other than the sun, for centuries after 1390.

Prior to using clocks, the time of Monastic Offices also varied by season - reflecting the different length of the hour, :

	Midwinter	Equinox	Midsummer
Prime @ Sunrise	8:00 am	6:00 am.	3:40 am
Sext	12:20 pm.	12:20 pm.	12:20 pm.
Compline	5-6:00 pm	7-8:00 pm.	9:30 p.m

The offices of Terce, Sext and Nones were all based on sunrise - 3,6 and 9 "hours" later.

Two of the parish churches that had plausible scratch dials indicated similar times, having allowed for variations in the church alignment - and many of the other dials elsewhere also indicated a time of around 12:30pm.

Isel (Cumbria)	10:05 - 12:20 winter
	9:15 - 12:30 in summer
Barfrestone (Kent)	9:00 - 12:20 winter,
	7:00 - 12:30 summer

Sundials

Sundials starting appearing on churches at an early date - at least one can be dated to 1500, at Beccles in Suffolk, installed on the new campanile, built some time after the church, due to the difficulties of the site. Many examples elsewhere have dates as part of their design - many in the 18thC - eg West Winch 1706, and Wereham 1724. Even by 1500 it was known that the angle of the gnomon had to match the latitude of the church to correct the seasonal variation of a horizontal pointer.

In the cases of churches that were not aligned east-west, the gnomon was declined (angled to left or right from the vertical) to cater for the fact that the church wall was aligned so that the dial did not face due south.

At Gilcrux (Cumb) the whole dial (dated 1826) faces due south, 26° differently from the church wall. The inscription also gives the correct latitude - 51° 32'.



Grundisburgh (Suffolk)
declining gnomon to cater for
the church alignment of 68°



Gilcrux (Cumbria) The whole
sundial angled to face south -
church alignment 64°
- inscription LAT 51-32

Clocks

Market towns led the way in installing clocks - presumably for commercial reasons. In medieval times, many churches played a role in the commercial activities of the market and the church is normally close to the marketplace, so a clock on the church tower could be seen by all and is another way of maintaining the church's position in the community. Beccles installed a clock in 1685 and both sundial and clock existed until 1820.

At least 14 market towns in Norfolk still have church clocks, but on different faces of the tower - all facing the marketplace. I also have photos of 82 village churches in Norfolk with clocks - they too appear on different faces of the tower, usually facing the main body of the village.

Conclusions

Whilst some scratch dials may once have indicated service or mass times, many, if not most, have been turned into intricate designs by idle hands. In addition, many of the dials on doorframes had porches built over them after the 15thC, shielding them from the sun, so they were either out of use by this time, or no longer considered important.

Once clocks became more common, especially in towns, then time became far more regulated, and correctly-designed sundials and clocks took over the accurate telling of time, removing the vagaries of seasonal solar time. When this actually happened in small villages is open to question.



Church clocks - Diss on the left and New Buckenham on the right, both fully visible from the marketplace

Part of Ian's doctoral thesis, published in 2010, studied the relationship between the sun and the alignment of churches

Winter Lecture Synopsis

Historic alterations or twentieth-century restoration?

Unpicking the Nuttery, Kenninghall

Jess Johnston (Members' night February 12th 2020)

The Nuttery, is a Grade-II listed, timber-framed and rendered, thatched cottage, located on the outskirts of the South Norfolk village of Kenninghall. The property is set back from East Church Street, parallel to the road, on a SE/NW alignment. The earliest phase is of timber frame, rendered externally, with thatched roof. A self-contained, pantiled extension to the east dates from the early 18th century. It is a low status farm house, probably early 16th century in origin. Kenninghall is part of the wood pasture area of south Norfolk, which sustained "high densities of farms, which though predominately small by national standards 'provided their owners with comfortable standards of living'" (Longcroft 2002)."

Located only 5 miles from the village of New Buckenham, it is interesting to see some similarities in construction here; in particular the lodging of the principal joist into the wall, supported on the frame rather than jointing into a post (see right).

The present owners bought the property in the late 1980s, and subsequently carried out a significant programme of restoration. The introduction of new and reused timbers meant that it was not always easy to interpret the integrity of current features for this survey. These pretty dramatic images show the building completely stripped back to the timber framing. Luckily the owners took some photos during the restoration works and had sketched elements of the historic fabric as they were removed from the building. Some were too decayed to be restored but these sketches enabled reproductions. Much of the timber framing in the front elevation was replaced/reused and differences in colour of the timbers in the rest of the building may also indicate new/ reused timbers.

The building displays a tripartite planform, with buttery and pantry to the NW, hall and parlour to the East. The blocked up doorway which opens from the front elevation into the hall is the likely cross passage. The lobby entrance between the parlour and the hall is likely to date to the insertion of the



The Nuttery from the front (above) and rear (below during restoration)

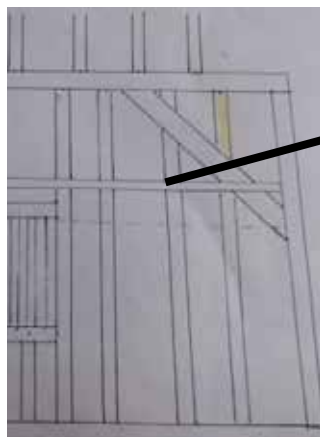


*left:
The principal joist, supporting the inserted floor in the hall, lodged into the wall, rather than jointed into a post.*

brick stack. The lobby opens to winder staircase (now no longer in use) with brick risers.

Parlour

In the SE elevation of the parlour there is evidence of a mullioned window. The top rail for the original window was repositioned as a vertical mullion in the 1980s restoration with a new header placed higher up the walling in order to house the principal joist. The gable end tie beam braces continue down from the first floor, other elements and ghost features of a possible clamp point to a possible raising of the ceiling in the 17th century in line with the principal joist stop moulds (see photo and drawing below). The storey post in the south elevation at the edge of the chimney bay shows the cut off brace tenon for a tie beam (see below)



*Above and above right:
Measured drawing of gable-end wall,
showing the position of the inserted floor*



Right:

*Cut-off tenon of the brace to the tie
beam (now above the floor)*



Hall

The continuous ground floor posts to the wallplate of the service end of the hall may indicate that the hall was originally open to the roof, with a later floor inserted in the early 17th century, dated by the principal joist chamfer stop with a roll, a shield and a nick. There is a cross passage to the NW end of the hall, although the front door is now blocked. The inglenook contains an original seat, but is no longer at the correct height for usage due to the floor level being raised with the laying of pammants in the 1980s.

A 17th century mullioned window with ovolo moulding was revealed during the restoration, its survival being secured when a later bread oven was inserted to the side of the stack. The clasping of the header over the framing seems to indicate that it would have been applied at a secondary stage to the studs.

Buttery & pantry

The floor plate for the wall which separates the service bay from the hall is not tennoned into the wall plate, but clasped, possibly indicating a secondary insertion or simply less skilled construction. The side-halved scarf joint was in use for a long period and does not help with dating. Peg holes in the internal dividing wall are a possible indication of earlier shelving. The end of the hall principal joist can be seen inserted into the service wall.

Chimney and Stair

The evidence of cut off tie beams and braces indicate that the stack is a later insertion, possibly replacing an earlier timber

framed chimney. It has 3 fireplaces; one serves the parlour, the second the hall and the third the chamber above the parlour. The lobby staircase (no longer in use) is incorporated into the stack and is constructed of brick risers and oak treads. The staircase serves the chambers above the parlour and hall.

First floor

A splayed scarf joint with under-squinted abutments was found in the SW wall plate in the first floor chimney bay. This is style of joint is typically found in 14th- and 15th-century houses in Norfolk but there has been evidence of later use as at Riverside Farm, Tacolnston, which has been dendro-dated to 1630s, so is not evidence for dating. (Longcroft et al 2009) The diamond-mullioned window appears to be inserted at a secondary stage to the studs.

Chamber above the hall

Now accessed from 20th century extension the tie beam above the hall is encompassed by the stack. This shows carpenter's marks and mortice holes on the underside possibly for a timber framed chimney. Above the tie beam there is a mortice hole, possibly for a crown post to support a collar strut purlin/ principal joist. It is likely that the position of the current dormer window, dates to the insertion of the floor in the early 17th century.

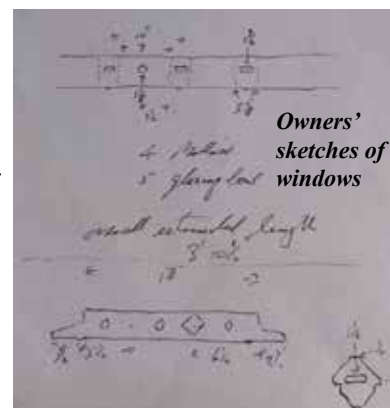
Chamber above the service end

The owners remember that this was originally only accessed from a trap door below and there was no access to the other rooms on the first floor. Being unheated it is likely to have been used for storage and may have intentionally kept separate from the rest of the first floor.

Summary

The construction of features such as the housing of the principal joist and ovolo-mullioned windows and the evidence of cut of tie beam braces and the continuous studs to the wallplate, point us in the direction of the earliest phase of the building being an open-hall house, with floored solar and service ends, likely to date from the early 1500s. But with no evidence of the original roof structure there could be a possibility that these features are simply evidence of less skilled construction dating from the late 15th to early 16th century. It certainly displays similar characteristics to buildings which have been dendrodated to the early 17th century in Tacolnston and New Buckenham.

One of the main conclusions to be drawn from the study of this house is the critical importance of recording features before any alterations. Without the drawings the owners made in the 1980s, this exercise would have been far more difficult and speculative.



*Owners'
sketches of
windows*

A. Longcroft 'Investigating Historic Housing stocks: A case study from Norfolk', Norfolk Archaeology, 40 (2002)

A. Longcroft, S Brown, M Brown & R. Forrest (eds) 'The Tacolnston Project: A study of historic buildings in the Claylands of South Norfolk' Journal of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group, 4 (2009)

Jess works for the National Trust as the East of England Covenants Officer and is also a freelance heritage consultant. She previously played a key role in the Diss Heritage Triangle project.

Winter Lecture Synopsis

Boulton & Paul Project: update

Di Barr (Members' night February 12th 2020)

As the documentary research into the B&P archives continues, the NHBG needs to establish how the project progresses.

Many of the over 100 catalogues in the NRO have been photographed, and are these revealing a wide range of buildings produced by B&P including residences, village halls, boathouses, revolving shelters, churches, hospitals and factories.

The documentary team has identified many B&P buildings erected in Norfolk - these need to be checked to see if they still exist, and photographed if they do - other sightings reported to the team need to be checked out and initially photographed with the aim of creating a database of existing buildings. How many of these might be surveyed in more detail also needs to be decided.

The B&P email address has received enquiries about some buildings, and information about others, from all over the country - the most interesting of these will also need investigating and perhaps recording.

B&P were not the only manufacturers in the field and the differences between the brands are sometimes difficult to determine. Few of the buildings retain a manufacturers mark, if indeed they were put on in the first place - we have seen four different B&P plates, including one on a door lock escutcheon.

The development of a B&P Style Guide will be a priority.

B&P Customers

One aspect of B&P generally which will be interesting to explore, is the shift in emphasis of B&P products. In the mid to late nineteenth century, the focus appears to have been on the occupants of large houses, their estates and its functions - such as cast-iron conservatories and orangeries, estate workers cottages and operational farming buildings and fittings.

By the early decades of twentieth century, the focus appears to have shifted towards making small houses, buildings for

community use, such as churches, halls and pavillions, and those for leisure activities, such as boat and motor houses.

B&P's final focus appears to have been on steel-framed industrial buildings.

The future

Previous appeals for fieldwork assistance generated some replies, but the volume of info in the NRO has delayed the start, along with the loss of the original project leader.

Di is proposing an initial day out for fieldwork in March or April - at a date to be arranged, with others to follow. Di will speak to those already volunteered.

Anyone interested please contact Di on

dibarr@btinternet.com or on 01603 898928

Once we get going, a more detailed plan can be developed

B&P plaques so far discovered



left:
pavillion,
Devon



right:
escutcheon in
church, Oxon



left:
house,
Brundall



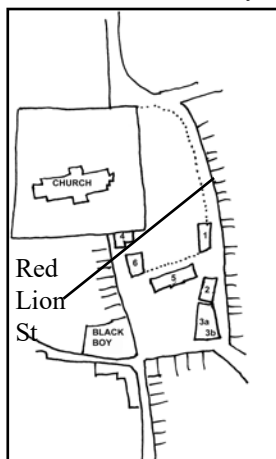
right:
revolving
shelter

Any information on B&P buildings - send to nhbgboultonandpaul@btinternet.com

A member's appeal for assistance

One of our members, Maggie Vaughan-Lewis, is researching the sequence of gaols or bridewells in Aylsham and is asking for help with a particular building:

There were several small lock-ups or bridewells in Aylsham over the centuries, known from the court rolls. None would have been very large and at least one (in Hungate Street) seems to have been part of an alehouse. Another, on the corner of Burgh Road, was also on a the site of an alehouse and remained the town bridewell until the early 19th century. In the 16th century, the gaol



was run by the Duchy of Lancaster, the lord of the main manor. I recently found an account for building yet another gaol which had **one door facing the churchyard**. The site was probably on the west side of Red Lion Street or possibly along the southern edge of the churchyard near the market.

Below is a description of the building materials, apparently dated to about 1577. The total cost including labour was £54 14s 4d, a substantial amount worth about £13,000 today. We believe it is the extension of an existing building - Ian has suggested it must have been

an end-to-end one from the entry "for takyng downe of the Gable **between the new house and the olde** and new framyng with a dore and a dorehalle in the said Gable. They were turning a house or building into a small gaol. I'm assuming the 'vaute' was a vault or the cell for violent or serious offenders (most prisoners would have been kept in an ordinary room). The gaoler may have lived in the other half of the house. I wondered if the amount of bricks and windows etc might allow for a tentative reconstruction or at least a possible size!

An edited list showing the main quantities:-

Excavations took 13 man-days -	7s 1d
Forming the door into the churchyard for ten wyndowes	10s 43s 4d
for two paire of correction stocks	8s
for the plancher (floor) over the Vowte	20s
for eleven bedsteads	36s 8d
for twentytwo thousand brick at 7s 6d the thousand	£8 5s
for caring [carrying] of the bricks	£3 2s
for five mattress	33s 4d
for 7 challder of lyme at 35s per challder,	£12 5s
for the caryng of the every challder 20d	6s 8d (sic)(11s 8d)
Paid to Andrews the mason for all his work done about the house	£5

If you have any suggestions - Maggie's email address is: maggie.vaughanlewis@btinternet.com

Men (and some women) of property in early-modern King's Lynn

Alan Metters (January 17th 2020)

This talk was based on an examination of the lives and businesses of the 123 men who held political office in King's Lynn, as common councillors, aldermen and mayors, between 1590 and 1640. They were the beneficiaries of the closed oligarchical system of borough government introduced by the first Henrician charter of 1524, which lasted down to the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835. The men involved in this neat but exclusive arrangement were nearly all called 'merchants', admitted to the freedom of the borough as members of the prestigious Company of Merchants which had succeeded the all-powerful medieval Holy Trinity Guild after that body had been dissolved during the Edwardian Reformation. The impressive Trinity Guildhall, with its interesting scissor-braced roof, continued to serve as the seat of borough government and is still today a part of the town hall complex, albeit somewhat shortened by the construction of the eighteenth-century Assembly Rooms. Some of the rulers, but by no means all, were engaged in maritime trade, both coastal and overseas (and overseas traders were generally regarded as 'true' or, in the sixteenth-century parlance, 'mere' merchants) but others were not, so an important question arises: if they were not active maritime traders, what did they do for a living? The women in the title could feature in this as wives, perhaps especially as widows (carrying on their late husbands' businesses, which was allowed), and also as daughters, who could also inherit.

Further research into the wider economic activities of these 'merchants of Lynn' has revealed that they were, in the memorable words of Sylvia Thrupp (writing of fifteenth-century London entrepreneurs), 'men of mixed enterprise' and they pretty well conformed to the template provided by another older generation historian, N. S. B. Gras, in performing anything 'from six to a dozen functions'. They engaged in domestic wholesaling, and also retailing, owning shops, stalls in the market (and at fair time), and inns; they often owned, or had shares in, ships (in some cases down to a one thirty-second part of a holding); they owned or rented warehousing and thereby offered storage facilities; they might engage in industrial production, particularly in malting and beer-brewing, but there were also individual businesses concerned with skins, tanning and leather work, and the production of worsted stockings; they were money-men, too, dealing with both their own cash, or promissory notes, and occasionally with deposits taken from other investors. Some were heavily involved in office-holding outside the borough government, particularly in the customs service and in manorial affairs, while a few were lawyers. But one thing that nearly all of them did was to invest heavily in real estate, both within the town and its immediate environs and also in more far-flung parts of the county of Norfolk (often as a result of marriage or inheritance, perhaps) as well as in the up-river hinterland of the port of Lynn (Ely, St Ives, Waterbeach for example) and across The Wash in Boston or Spalding.

Attention then turned to the topography of Lynn, with its changing riverline, and the basic three-fold layout of: the original settlement of Bishop's Lynn (1), around the priory church of St Margaret's, now The Minster; the 'new land' laid out in the twelfth century (2) around the spacious Tuesday Market Place, with the magnificent St Nicholas Chapel, and an extended piece of ribbon development along Damgate (now Norfolk Street); and the initially quite separate suburb of South Lynn (not formally incorporated until the reign of Mary I) (3). Thereafter, three individual case-studies illustrated particular aspects of this overall analysis:-

Properties of the Revett family – the *pater familias*, Michael Revett I (?-1606), who first came to the town as a scrivener and ended up as a notary public, and his three sons, Thomas (1565- 1633),

who served for nineteen years as town clerk, John (1568- 1633) and Michael II (1575-1636). All of them became extensive property-owners. Thomas Revett was one of the very few Lynn notables for whom there is an extant probate inventory, which (with some reservations)

might be used to reconstruct his main house. Michael Revett II was perhaps the biggest investor in real estate, alongside his major commitment to beer-brewing. He owned two inns, *The Maid's Head* in the Tuesday Market Place (still there today, standing next door to Henry Bell's much later *Duke's Head Hotel*) and *The Red Lion* in Boston, alongside extensive properties in the county. His substantial property in Checker Street was described in great detail in his will and has been ably reconstructed by Vanessa Parker in her excellent study *The Making of King's Lynn* (1972).

Thomas Snelling and Clifton House tower. The house itself, with its superb medieval undercroft, was extensively remodelled in the eighteenth century but its outstanding Elizabethan-Jacobean tower stands as living testimony to early-modern commercial enterprise. In about 1615 it was acquired by Thomas Snelling, an incomer from Thetford, who also became a freeman of the City of London, a member of the Skinners' Company. Regrettably, Snelling did not last very long in Lynn. He rose quickly to become an alderman and mayor but then died in 1623 during his year of office. He has a notable memorial in St Nicholas Chapel.

Greenland Fishery House and the Atkin family. This house, later famed as an inn frequented by Greenland whalers, was new built by John Atkin in 1605, and it is one of the very few properties genuinely dating from the early seventeenth century. Vanessa Parker has done a detailed reconstruction of its principal features. It is unusual in being located in South Lynn rather than in either of the other two more prestigious parishes. The Atkins were another 'incomer' family, John and his wife Joanna (*née* Sabbe) migrating from Wells in the 1580s, and their ever-increasing family was eventually to number four sons and five daughters, many of whom inter-married with other ruling dynasties. John Atkin's substantial brewing business was clearly continued by his widow for twenty years after his death, and she also inherited her eldest son's parallel business. John has an impressive funeral slab in chancel of The Minster, while the civic portrait of William, his eldest son, is the oldest surviving example now to be seen in the town hall.

Alan has published widely on Lynn and Norfolk. His PhD was on the Merchants of Lynn and he is still an Hon Research Fellow at UEA. He has been a member of the Norfolk Record Society since 1988 and Hon. Sec. since 2003

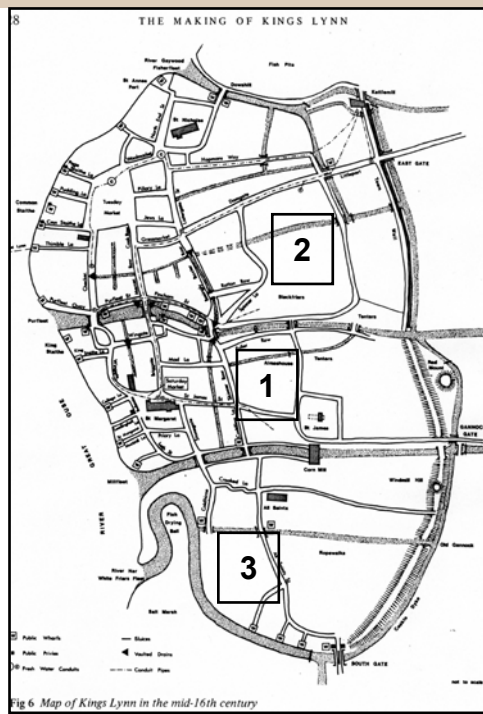


Fig 6 Map of Kings Lynn in the mid-16th century

Winter Lecture Synopsis

Ghost Signs: traces of lost businesses

Borin Van Loon (March 10th 2020)

Traditionally, tradesmen painted the names of their business plus other signs and advertisements on the fabric of their buildings. Most towns with long industrial histories still bear traces of those bygone businesses. This talk by the creator of the Ipswich Historic Lettering website included a range of trade signs which may be familiar to Ipswich and Norwich residents and many 'ghost signs' which are little noticed today in the era of digital marketing.

Some signs still exist but have been neglected, some are still being uncovered, but many have been sadly lost, leaving only photographs of them in the past.

A few signs have been moved and some are being refurbished and resurrected as indicators of earlier history.

Some simple informative signs from Ipswich



Applied letters on the Old Bullards Brewery site.

Unless otherwise stated, the images have been taken from Borin's website. The rest are used under creative commons rights.

Borin is an illustrator and painter with interests in signs, typography and calligraphy in relation to local history. Borin's website <http://www.ipswich-lettering.co.uk/> contains 415 web-pages and 5,862 images.



In Beccles, this sign has been repainted relatively recently.

Eastough were coal merchants from the early 18th C, their site stretching down to the river. Smith was from a well-to-do Somerset family and married Eastough - the original coal merchant's widow. Their son HW (sic) Smith, was the founder of WH Smith...

Fading Remains



Part of the early 20th C advert for Mann Egerton in Magdalene Road- ironically it exists because it was covered by a later advertising hoarding

(Photo: Alex Clayton)



The remains of an advert in Dereham Road after repairs to the wall

(Photo: Northmetpit)



A neglected advert for a grocer in Bell Street

(Photo: Stuart McPherson)

Below: Remnants of a sign in St Augustine's St, showing later brickwork repairs



A Digest of Buildings Visited Since August 2019

This is a digest of the Norfolk houses which the NHBG has been invited to look at and to prepare brief reports on. These are ALL private houses and NO contact may be made with the owners in any way except through the Committee. These summaries of those reports are to inform members of the work undertaken on behalf of the Group.

Valley Farm, Whitwell

Valley Farm is a mile west of Whitwell Common. The main range is a five-celled building of two distinct builds. To its western end are two cells of a one-and-a-half-storey, timber-framed building, one cell either side of a stack, now clad in standard-sized brick, and to the east is a three-celled brick-built part of two full storeys and attic with a gable-end stack along with tumbling-in at each end.

The windows are oak-framed casements under rubbed-brick skewback arches, whilst upstairs the openings meet the dentil strip.

The roof is a later replacement with two rows of staggered purlins. The principal rafters and collars have carpenters marks of different sizes on each side of the roof - made with a chisel.

The earliest part of this house is the timber-framed part at the western end and is probably early seventeenth century. The brick phase is probably late-seventeenth or early-eighteenth century, with diagnostic tumbling in, but it lacks sash windows and the facade is not fully symmetrical.

The barn appears to be contemporary with the brick-built phase of the house as the bricks and construction methods are similar, although it is built in English rather than Flemish bond. The barn roof is slightly steeper than the house and has taller parapets to the gables. It was reportedly still thatched within living memory.

Ian Hinton & Lynne Hodge



Lynne Hodge

axial principal joist with iron ties, and a transverse joist which may have been re-used from elsewhere. The common joists are roughly square section and have chamfered edges.

On the first floor part of a timber frame is revealed. There are various scribed carpenter's assembly marks. Above this central section the earlier roof springing from the original eaves height has been retained. It has 2 rows of in-line purlins with slight shaving and separate collars. The principal rafters are not diminished above the collars and have cranked wind-braces. This part of the roof is completely plastered and painted, implying that it was used for domestic purposes. As part of the eaves-raise, a new roof of sawn-square pine and single purlins was erected over the whole house, including above the old roof in the centre section.

It probably started as a timber-framed lobby-entrance house, probably of 4 cells and 1½ storeys and of the mid-seventeenth century. In the late eighteenth century the one-and-a-half storey façade was rebuilt in brick in Flemish bond. Subsequently the eaves were raised and the sash windows inserted, lastly adding the porch in 1884.

Ian Hinton & Lynne Hodge

Grove House, Instead

The fine south-facing façade is of red tuckpointed brick of two storeys with a central double door with a decorative timber doorcase and 5 sash windows without horns.



The roof is shallow and double-hipped with black-glazed, pantiles and a central axial chimney stack with six flues. To the rear, the house is of 3 storeys with stacks at both ends, with wooden casement windows with central, iron, opening lights having hand-forged catches, all under arched heads. There is a single storey central outshut and a single storey range at right-angles to the north east corner.

Internally, the Regency features continue at the front, but at the rear there may be evidence of an earlier building with re-used oak principal joists with pine joists dovetailed into the top.

Outbuildings include a full range of barns, the main one still thatched, with stables and a demolished malthouse. To the rear also is Arch Cottage - built over a dyke from Barton Broad, originally used to load grain into wherries.

The details of the front of the house suggest a date of around 1810-1820, but it is not clear whether the remainder is of the same build, or whether the Regency front incorporated and partly rebuilt an eighteenth-century house at the rear with gable-end stacks and a central unheated cell.

Lynne Hodge & Ian Hinton

Fritton Grange

The main range is of 2 storeys with an almost central axial stack and a central 2 storey brick porch dated 1884, and 8 sash windows whose sash-boxes are flush with the face of the wall. The eaves have been raised by 18 courses. There are 3 axial chimneys and a pantiled roof, black-glazed at the front and red to the rear. The gable end to the west is separate from the bricks in the front and rear walls.



To the left of the façade is a 2 storey range of 2 bays also in colour-washed brick but built in English bond. The porch leads to a lobby-entrance with a staircase rising to the first floor. Later alterations have divided the western room and a new stack and fireplace was built internally against the gable wall.

To the eastern side of the central chimney the room has an

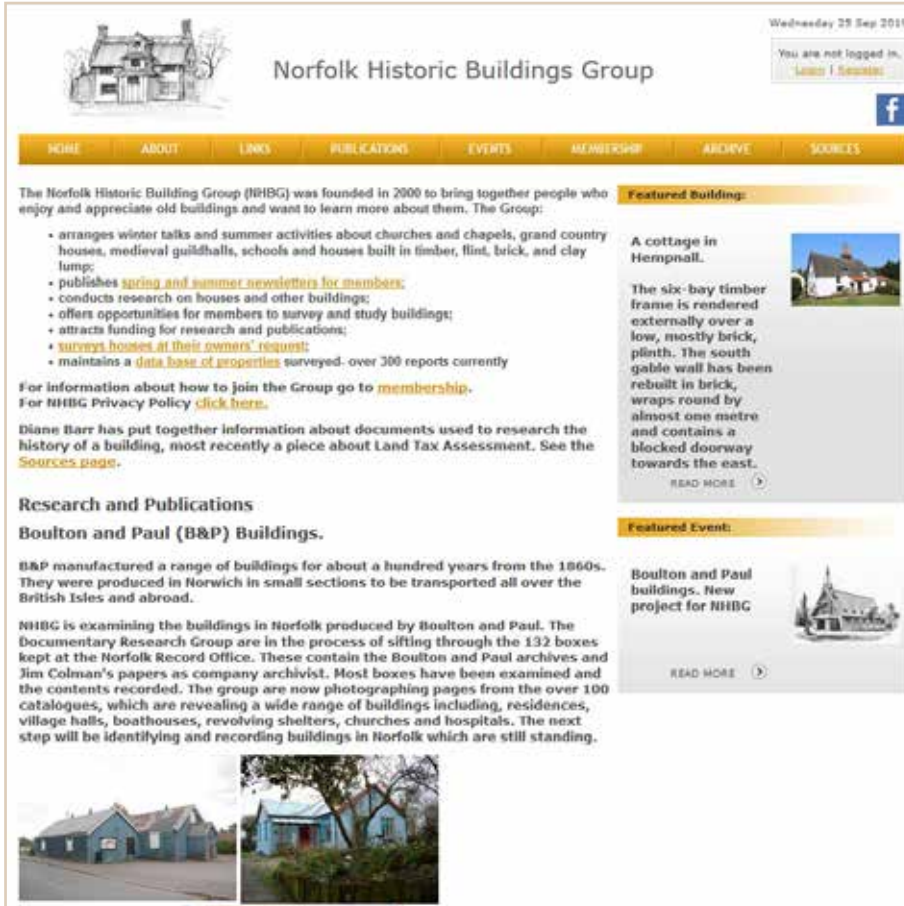
Hempnall Update

We had hoped to have published the results of our long-term survey of the houses of Hempnall by now, but in order to offset some of the expenditure on the dendrochronological investigation, which now incorporates some of the houses we propose to visit in the 2021 VAG Spring Conference, the committee applied for a grant from the VAG for £2000. This constitutes about half the cost of the time- and labour-intensive

investigations involved. By the time this newsletter is published, we should know the outcome of the grant application and will be able to start the coring and analysis of the timbers over the next few weeks.

If all goes well, we are still on track to publish the whole study in 2020, including, hopefully, accurate dating details!

Instructions for access to the improved NHBG Archive data



The NHBG website Home Page.

Details on the page may differ from day to day

step 1

Once you have obtained a login from jackie.g.simpson@btinternet.com, access to the system is by clicking **Login** in the top right of the screen

step 2

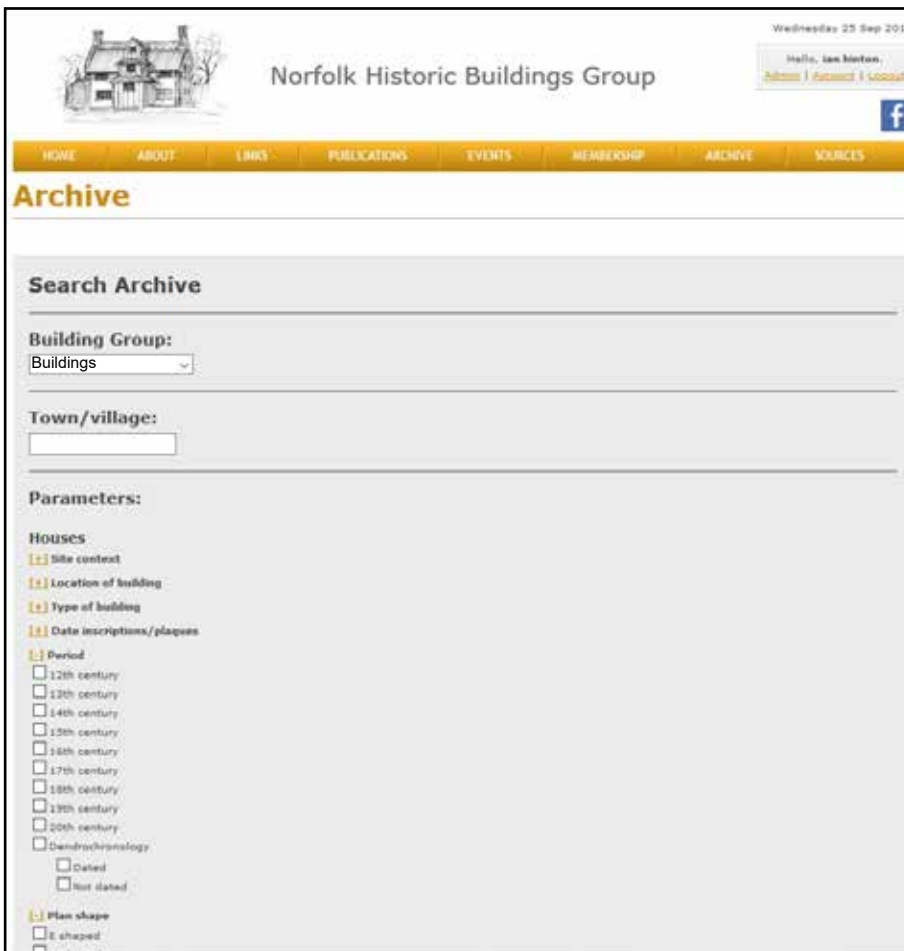
Enter your email address and the allocated password at the bottom of the next page

step 3

Then click the [Archive] tab

which will take you to the

Archive search Screen



The ARCHIVE screen allows for searches to be made that meet the criteria you select:

Building Groups

These are still being setup (currently, leave it set to "buildings")

Town/Village

Entering the first letter or letters will offer a drop-down selection list - click the village name that you want

Parameters

The main headings are displayed alongside a [+], pressing that will list the various sub-groups within the parameter.

Click the box required in each parameter that you wish the search to match.

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click **Search by Criteria**

Examples of Searches

Location Search

A simple search of Houses in Hempsall (see left), produces a list and short summaries of 36 houses surveyed.

Selecting the BIN (Building Identification Number) or the building name of one of the summaries, displays the **View Buildings** screen which contains the original report, with selected photographs and other attachments (listed at the foot of the screen), such as a floorplan.

Each Building selected, and each attachment opened, is opened in a new window, which appears in a new tab at the top of your browser's window.

These can be closed when you have finished with them by clicking the **X** at the right of the tab in your browser.

To return to the List of Buildings screen, click the leftmost tab (but NOT the X). You can select another building OR scroll to the bottom to select **BACK TO SEARCH**

Report to List buildings with certain parameters

If you wish to list all the houses that meet certain criteria, return to the **Search Archive** screen and select the parameters that you want.

Each parameter expands by clicking the **[+]** next to the parameter - this displays the possible values for you to select.

The available parameters are:-

Search Archive

Building Group: Buildings

Town/village:

Parameters:

- Houses
 - [+] Location of building
 - [+] Site context
 - [+] Type of building
 - [+] Date inscriptions/plaques
 - [+] Period
 - [+] Plan shape
 - [+] Plan arrangement
 - [+] Height
 - [+] Bays including Chimney/Sootle Bay
 - [+] Roof form
 - [+] Roof covering
 - [+] Walling materials
 - [+] Chimneys: number of main
 - [+] Chimneys: nature of main
 - [+] Fireplaces: description
 - [+] Windows
 - [+] Flooring materials
 - [+] Screens and panelling
 - [+] Staircase(s)
 - [+] Entry
 - [+] Doors
 - [+] Beams
 - [+] Decorative elements: internal
 - [+] Bases
 - [+] Joists
 - [+] Fastenings
 - [+] Posts
 - [+] Roof structure
 - [+] Moulds on timbers
 - [+] Outbuilds and external structures

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group

HOME ABOUT LINKS PUBLICATIONS EVENTS MEMBERSHIP ARCHIVE

Archive

Search Archive

Building Group: Houses

Town/village: Hempsall

Parameters:

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group

Wednesday 23 Sep 2010

HOME ABOUT LINKS PUBLICATIONS EVENTS MEMBERSHIP ARCHIVE SOURCES

Archive

NH0222
 This house, formerly part of an inn, is the hall and service end of a non-street dwelling with attic and part cellar. It is a 16th-century, timber-framed house, probably originally built in the late 15th-century or early 16th-century, possibly near with a brick front part. The roof is made of black gables at the front and end of the rear, but is steep enough to have been marked originally.

NH0223
 An eighteenth-century, brick-built, one-and-a-half-storey house, now redwood, originally with gable-end stacks. It has been extended to the east with a further one-storey bay built up to the property boundary, with further extensions to the rear. It has a red pan tiled roof with three dormer windows on the south elevation. It is set back from the road.

NH0224
 The house consists of two timber-framed buildings of eighteenth-century construction, built into a full brickage plan by a brick built on the site, probably in the eighteenth or nineteenth century. The two buildings may be contemporary and of the eighteenth-century, but there are indications that the smaller building building may be earlier. There are no other more than two hundred years and has been two times in various times, leaving impressions difficult.

NH0225
 This house is aligned north-south and is located on sandy green more than a mile south of the centre of Hempsall. It has a red pan tiled roof with three dormer windows on the south elevation. It is set back from the road.

NH0226
 A late eighteenth-century one-and-a-half-storey, later, one-storey house, the base of which still stands, the service bay appears to have been replaced by a small one-storey, probably in the eighteenth century. The whole has been brick built, a large red pan tiled roof, set built in gable ends with one dormer gable.

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group

Wednesday 23 Sep 2010

HOME ABOUT LINKS PUBLICATIONS EVENTS MEMBERSHIP ARCHIVE SOURCE

View Building

BIN: NH0223

Address: Eastford House, Curzon Road, Hempsall, Norfolk, NR21 2AG

Description:

Summary

An eighteenth-century, brick-built, one-and-a-half-storey house, now redwood, originally with gable-end stacks. It has been extended to the east with a further one-storey bay built up to the property boundary, with further extensions to the rear. It has a red pan tiled roof with three dormer windows on the south elevation. It is set back from the road.

Exterior

The house was originally brick built and is now redwood. There is a red pan tiled roof with three dormer windows on the south elevation. All the rear part has been extended several times, part single-storey with a pitched roof, part two-storey, probably in the nineteenth century, although all or part of the single-storey element may be original. Originally with a stone with a stone frame on each gable, an additional two-storey bay was added, built on to the property boundary on the east end, adding a bay to the western stack at the same time, highlighted by a vertical joint in the stack above the ridge. It has a slightly lower ridge line than the original roof. In addition, there are two low-level, windowless screens. The chimney is a problem. The current entrance is adjacent to the enlarged stack, on the south side. It is not possible to confirm that this was the original position - a small wall here has been in the results between the ground floor windows.

Interior

Ground floor

The original ground floor is currently divided into two roughly equally sized rooms, each of which has a side brick hearth on the outer walls. The marble hearth in the eastern room appears to be moved on it has a chimney on its upper inner corner. The windows in the eastern room has two large, plain, arched panes or pairs for a stack. Both rooms have separate ground floor panes of red, with similar simple chimneys and a half above with iron fire androors. Then into the north, the common ceiling joists are of softwood, square cut and have been fixed beams. The ground joists are supported at each end by timber beam supports. The internal partition appears to be of brick or masonry with decorative studs. The extension to the east is one-a garage and workshop and the walls and board are hidden by the ceiling.

The staircase is now located in the rear end of the rear extension.

Examples of Searches

Criteria search

Location of building
 Type of building
 Date inscriptions/plaques
 Period
 12th century
 13th century
 14th century
 15th century
 16th century
 17th century
 18th century
 19th century
 20th century
 Dendrochronology
 Dated
 Not dated
 Plan shape
 Plan arrangement
 Height
 Single storey without separate attic space
 Single storey with attic space (attic floor coincides with eaves)
 1 1/2 storeys (with attic floor dropped below eaves)
 2 Storeys
 2 Storeys (with inaccessible attic used solely for storage)
 2 Storeys + functional attic space accessed via proper staircase
 3 storeys (with inaccessible attic used solely for storage)
 3 Storeys + functional attic space accessed via proper staircase
 Is there a cellar?
 Yes
 No
 Bays including Chimney/Smoke Bay
 Roof form
 Roof covering
 Thatch
 Evidence of
 Pantile (red)
 Pantile (black)
 Plain tile
 Slate
 Shingles

Check the box next to each value that you would like included in the search - multiple choices are possible for each parameter.

When finished, scroll to the bottom of the screen and click **Search by Criteria** button

These criteria are 'AND' - in other words a building has to meet all the values you select. The more you select, the shorter the list.

In extremis, it may produce no returns at all - reduce the selection criteria.

Search example :

This search shown on the left produces the list below:-

Houses that the NHBG has surveyed that are:-

16th Century

and 1 1/2 storey

and thatched

at the time produced 4 properties -

2 in New Buckenham,

1 in Tacolneston and

1 in Forncett St Mary

To alter the search parameters or to perform a new search, scroll to the bottom of the screen and click **Back to Search**

Be aware that complicated searches may take a few seconds - even more so if there are others searching at the same time.

Please remember to log out at the end of your session

If you find what you think are errors or omissions, please let Ian - ian.hinton222@btinternet.com or Jackie - jackie.g.simpson@btinternet.com, know



Theford Wesleyan Methodist
 Overstrand Wesleyan Methodist
 Hingham Friends Meeting House
 Norwich Railway Mission
 Holt Methodist

Chapels of Norfolk

Photos by Robin Forrest
 Scratby Primitive Methodist
 Carleton Rode Baptist
 Kenninghall Particular Baptist
 Wilby Primitive Methodist
 Catfield Primitive Methodist

Saxlingham Nethergate
 Undenominational (Boulton & Paul)
 Emneth Primitive Methodist
 Brandiston Wesleyan Reform Methodist
 Mundesley Mission Chapel
 Hapton Presbyterian

